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NOTE VERBALE DATED 24 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to transmit to him a letter from Mr. Amrou Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to which is attached the text of the final declaration of the Arab Coordination Meeting held at Cairo on 24 December 1992.

The Permanent Representative of Egypt should like to request that the text of this note, its annex and the attached declaration be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

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ANNEX

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the ministers for foreign affairs of the Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the final declaration of the Arab Coordination Meeting held at Cairo on 24 December 1992 to consider Israel's decision to deport over 400 Palestinians.

In this connection, I should like to note that, in the declaration, the ministers call upon the Security Council to act promptly to implement its resolution 799 (1992) and request the Secretary-General to maintain his special envoy in the occupied territories in order to supervise the return of the deportees.

Amrou MOUSSA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Appendix

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE ARAB COORDINATION MEETING
HELD AT CAIRO ON 24 DECEMBER 1992

At the request of the Lebanese Republic and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and in response to the invitation extended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Lebanese Republic and Palestine met at Cairo on 24 December 1992 to consider Israel's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from occupied Palestinian territory to occupied Lebanese territory, as well as developments in the Middle East peace process and the impact of Israel's decision on that process. Also in attendance were some of the members of the Arab delegations taking part in the bilateral peace negotiations.

His Excellency the President of Palestine, Mr. Yasser Arafat, attended part of the meeting. He described the impact which the decision to carry out a collective deportation by force would have on the peace process and thanked participating States, particularly Lebanon, for the courageous and judicious measures they had taken in respect of the deportees.

The ministers considered the recent decision by the Government of Israel to drive more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories by force and vigorously condemned those fanatical measures and Israel's recourse to collective sanctions against the Palestinians of the occupied territories, which constitutes a grave violation of international instruments and custom, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention, article 49, paragraph 1, of which prohibits the deportation of persons living in an occupied territory to any other territory for any reason.

The ministers urged Israel to respect international law and implement the fourth Geneva Convention in the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem. They also affirmed that Israel must implement Security Council resolution 799 (1992) of 18 December 1992, which demands that Israel ensure the complete and immediate return of the deportees to their homes in occupied Palestinian territory, held Israel liable for any attacks on the physical or moral integrity of the deportees who were forcibly driven into occupied Lebanese territory outside the area of Lebanese sovereignty, and affirmed their support for the decision taken by the Lebanese Government in this connection to prevent Israel from continuing such odious measures.

The ministers also called upon the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in the face of Israel's intransigence and its refusal to implement Security Council resolution 799 (1992), which have dangerous consequences for the peace process; they urged the Security Council to take prompt action to implement its resolution, to set up a mechanism and a

timetable for the repatriation of the deportees and, should Israel fail to comply, to meet again with a view to taking the measures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations in the event of a refusal to implement a Council resolution; and they requested the Secretary-General to maintain his envoy in the occupied territories to supervise the repatriation of the deportees.